

FERC, the EIS and you

Alaska LNG project review



Larry Persily, Federal Coordinator for Alaska Gas Line Projects
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The FERC process

- o Energy Department approves gas exports
- o Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approves the construction and operation
- o FERC process starts when applicant pre-files
- o Alaska LNG will start pre-filing in 2014
- o Pre-filing creates a public docket at FERC

What's in a pre-filing?

- o Project development timeline
- o Project map; rough, not yet detailed
- o Public participation plan: “tools and actions to facilitate stakeholder communications”
- o Start of EIS; third-party contractor selection
- o A list of federal, state and local agencies with permitting responsibility for the project

Resource reports

- o FERC requires that LNG project applicants submit 12 “Resource Reports” when they turn in the formal application for approval
- o Reports will form basis for the project’s environmental impact statement; drafting starts in pre-file (FERC provides guidance)
- o FERC and other federal agencies will review drafts, request more information as needed

Resource reports

- o Project description
- o Water use, quality
- o Fish, wildlife and vegetation
- o Cultural resources
- o Socioeconomics
- o Geological resources
- o Soils
- o Land use, recreation and aesthetics
- o Air and noise quality
- o Alternatives
- o Reliability and safety
- o Engineering and design

Socioeconomics No. 5

- o Describe existing socioeconomic conditions
- o Evaluate impacts; plans to reduce impacts
- o Employment, housing, local tax revenues, local government services, transportation
- o *“Conduct a fiscal impact analysis evaluating incremental local government revenues that would result from construction of project.”*

Report predicts impacts

- o Draft socioeconomic Resource Report 5 for Exxon/TransCanada project was 500 pages
- o Before and after numbers for population, school enrollment, government services, housing, transportation, local tax revenues
- o Resource Report No. 5 also covers subsistence and health impact assessment

The EIS is your opportunity

- o Docket at FERC will be open to the public
- o FERC-led scoping meetings early in process to identify issues public wants covered in EIS
- o Scoping period lasted seven months for Exxon/TransCanada project in 2011-2012
- o Opportunities at FERC and other agencies to comment during permitting and draft EIS

Cooperating agency in EIS

- o FERC will be the lead on a single EIS
- o Cooperating agency a formal designation
- o Federal agencies with permitting jurisdiction
- o Or special expertise in environmental issues
- o Non-federal agencies may be invited to join
- o FERC determination on a case-by-case basis

Take the time to read it all

- o Pay attention to what the Resource Reports say about your community and the impacts
- o Attend the scoping meetings and tell FERC, other federal agencies and project applicant what you want to see addressed in the EIS
- o The more complete the EIS, the better it meets your needs and avoids project delays

For more information

Office of the Federal Coordinator for Alaska Natural Gas Transportation Projects

Larry Persily, Federal Coordinator

(202) 627-6862

lpersily@arcticgas.gov

www.arcticgas.gov

